

**MEARNS COMMUNITY RADIO LTD
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES
Upper Town Hall Stonehaven – Thursday 15 September 2011 at 7.30pm**

The following members were present or represented by proxy:

Ordinary Members (31)			Ordinary Members (contd)		
Bill	Barclay	In the chair	Kevin	Newstead	Proxy (DM)
Bette	Blaikie	Present	Doug	Paton	Proxy (RC)
George	Brebner	Present	Bill	Pirie	Present
Garry	Brindley	Proxy (BB)	Charles	Sands	Present
Raymond	Christie	Present	Elaine	Smith	Present
Phyllis	Christie	Proxy (RC)	Mikey	Smith	Present
Hector	Christie	Present	Chrissie	Stirk	Proxy (SH)
Alan	Craig	Present	Ken	Venters	Present
Chris	Deans	Present	Liz	Whitelaw	Present
Fiona	Green	Proxy (KV)	Associate Members (4)		
Douglas	Green	Proxy (KV)	Craig	Donald	Present
Margaret	Green	Proxy (KV)	Malcolm	Finlayson	Present
Louisa	Greenwell	Present	Margaret	Hodder	Present
Peter	Greig	Present	Billy	McKenzie	Proxy (CD)
Nigel	Griffiths	Present	Representative Members (1)		
Chris Ann	Holt	Present	Stonehaven Community Council		Proxy (PG)
Steve	Holt	Present	Others present (2)		
Ian	Hunter	Present	Michael	Blacklaw	Present
Tom	Macpherson	Present	Douglas	Ingram	Present
Doug	McKelvie	Present			
Phil	Mills-Bishop	Present			
Ray	Milne	Present			

WELCOME

Chairman Bill Barclay welcomed members and said it was good to see so many at the AGM. It was important that everyone was fully involved and enjoyed the evening.

Apologies: Mandy Roy, Scott Leiper

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the previous EGM had been issued by e-mail and Google Docs and were on the website but some members had not received them. Several copies were issued during the meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising.

Ken Venters asked – given that the board were now acting in a way that was not public any more - where in the minutes of the EGM did it say that members would be prevented from attending future meetings? The Chairman said the minutes were clear and it was made perfectly clear at the EGM the way that the meetings would run. It was not running any differently now to the way it ran before. The board meetings are held with the board members in attendance. Anyone who wants to make representations to those meetings is perfectly at liberty to do so, but the meetings are not open to all members and that would be the same for the board of any organisation.

Ken Venters again asked where it said that in the Minutes. The Chairman said it was stated on the evening and everyone knew that on the night.

Ken Venters asked for a third time where in the minutes it stated that members would be prevented from attending board meetings. The Chairman said he did not think it was necessary for that to be in the Minutes of the EGM. It is exactly the same as it was previously.

Peter Greig said he was not sure if the meetings previous to the EGM had been as stated. Granted not everybody turned up.

Nigel Griffiths said he sat on the board for a long time last year and said that at no time had he been made aware that any of those meetings were open to the general membership. And no-one from the general membership attended any of those meetings last year.

Alan Craig said he attended two meetings as a non board member before it changed so it was possible to do so.

Ian Hunter said it had been a big issue. At this time last year at the AGM we were told there would be a board of four and the meetings would be open forum. For a while they were. We were then told they were no longer open forum, and Peter in particular had argued that if everyone turned up they would be ungainly. We seemed to get half way through the year and then changed the way we worked. Ian said he thought that was what had caused the conflict. The board of four had taken one or two decisions that even he on the management committee wasn't aware of. And we had a series of voted about it. The compromise at the end of the day was to have a larger board.

There was a general discussion before the Chairman asked if remarks could be addressed to the chair.

Alan Craig suggested we put the previous year behind us for the rest of the evening

There were no other matters arising from the Minutes. Ian Hunter proposed them. Raymond Christie seconded them. No-one dissented from them being accepted.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Chairman took over the chair at the EGM in April and said he was not fully aware of what took place before that. However Mearns FM has a lot going for it. There have been issues and it is disappointing that they have not settled. There has been a tremendous amount of work done in the last 12 months – in outside broadcasts, in the work of the station itself – in the shows that are being done by the presenters. What we need to do, he said, is to work together to go forward and as a group. We seem to have problems that we have a lack of volunteers Those who have done fundraising for us – lets make no bones about it said the Chairman – when he took over Mearns FM was in dire straits – we had no money and strife within the organisation and we were at the point of going out of business. It was almost decided that this was the case but thanks to the support – including Charles – we are going forward. Special thanks goes to Alan Craig whilst he was on the board – particularly for the quiz night that he organised and gave us an influx of cash just when we needed it. We need to thank those of you who went out and did the outside broadcasts at the harbour, St Cyrus, at the high jinks. All these things have happened in the last year.

Ian has gone out with his microphones at the Feein' Market and other places like that and that has given us another edge. From what the Chairman had gleaned from talking to people who listen to us they like the interviews – it is what makes us a local community radio station.

The Chariman said he was disappointed that we had problems between the EGM and now with so many of the directors at that time resigning over problems with e-mails etc. That has been the biggest disappointment over the last three or four months, but he was glad to say that all of those people are still involved with Mearns FM and still doing a terrific job for us.

Going forward we need to be pushing and pushing for funding. Steve Holt managed to pick up a couple of hundred pounds from the Johnshaven Gala. We have got an award of £500 coming from the Wood Group. Hopefully there will be further responses to letters that are out there. Things have improved. There are more adverts coming on and we are stronger for that.

Charles and Chris Ann need to be thanked for work on the financial side of things this year. Without them we had more money going out than coming in and you just can't continue on that basis. The Chairman hoped that the finances improve. The emmbers may wish to think about a membership fee for the future. Our expenses are not a lot, but they are a lot if you have not got them. We need to speak to local businesses that may want to advertise on air. It is all about responsibility – we all give our time free and we realise we have lots of other things that are important. But it would be helpful if everyone could push for donations and advertising. We are stronger and hope that everyone will go forward with us

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chris Ann presented the Accounts. Income has dropped considerably – the schools project the year before had generated funds. Advertising income has improved but we still rely a lot on donations from organisations and individuals. Our costs have not gone up a lot but the VAT rise in January has affected us a little. The running costs for the year at £6,000 to £7,000 before there is any expenditure on equipment.

Alan Sanderson asked about cash flow and Chris Ann confirmed it was a little better at the moment with funds from the Johnshaven Fish Festival, and advertising. Charles has loaned the station a couple of thousand pounds and Ian has loaned the station almost a couple of hundred pounds, so the finances were not brilliant.

Nigel Griffiths commented on the reliance on schools studio income and Alan Sanderson explained that funds from schools was partly reimbursing us for equipment but there was also a contributions to Mearns FM's running costs.

Peter Grieg asked what PPL and PRS licences were – and Chris Ann explained that we had to pay an increased amount now because programmes were being streamed on the internet.

Steve Holt proposed and Nigel Griffiths seconded a motion that the accounts be accepted. All the members joined the Chairman in thanking Chris Ann for her work.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MEMO AND ARTICLES

Steve Holt suggested the Memo and Articles were changed to avoid problems with interpretation of the Memo and Articles. He wanted to make it more black and white, but did not realise what he originally suggested took in such a wide area. He wanted to amend the proposal to specific postcodes – from Bridge of Don to the Airport, Kingswells and Cults to Banchory and Laurencekirk, Fettercairn, Brechin and Montrose. So if someone lives in that area – whether they listen on FM at that postcode or not – if they are prepared to give up their time they should have a vote. That is the reason for it.

Ian Hunter pointed out that Tony Langton has climbed and 80ft mast and was currently precluded from joining. Tom Macpherson asked if this change should not be built into the constitution and the chairman explained that was what was being proposed.

The Chairman explained we needed to vote on the amendment and on a show of hands the amendment was carried overwhelmingly.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman said we were now looking for up to 20 directors, starting with convenor.

Gordon Dunlop proposed ALAN SANDERSON for convenor and Doug McKelvie seconded it.

Ian Hunter proposed BILL BARCLAY and Raymond Christie seconded that proposal.

Alan Sanderson said he had thought about things over the last few months when he had not been actively involved. He said Mearns FM was a community asset – he hoped his personality and knowing many people would get more people involved and that he would be able to get more out of them – to build the station up to what it should be.

Ian Hunter said he had full confidence in both of the candidates.

Bill Barclay said he had enjoyed the three or four months, but with illness he had not been hands on the way he would have wanted. So under the circumstances he was going to withdraw his own name from the nominations because he thought Alan would make an extremely good and active convenor. The members joined the secretary in congratulating **ALAN SANDERSON** on his appointment.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CONVENOR

Bill Barclay continued in the chair and invited nominations for vice chairman.

Ian Hunter proposed BILL BARCLAY as vice convenor and Bill Pirie seconded that proposal.

PETER GREIG was proposed by Chris Deans and seconded by Steve Holt

Gordon Dunlop proposed KEN VENTERS and George Brebner seconded this.

Bill Barclay invited the candidates to say a few words.

Peter Greig said he was a little like Alan in that nothing changed when he stepped down in his attitude to Mearns FM. Like Alan he would be looking for more people to step up to the plate. He firmly believes that each and every member has a skill that is worthy of Mearns FM. Peter said he was disappointed by the turnout, but if selected he said he would be pushing to get meetings open forum. Ian wants open forum as well but just because you say it is open forum it doesn't mean that everybody has to turn up. For various reasons people can't make it just because the door is open. That was where he stood.

Ian Hunter asked about the system of voting. Was it that we would vote – the lowest polling candidate dropped out and then we voted again – or was it just first past the post? The chairman said he thought it was a just first past the post.

Ken Venters said his views on open forum were well known. Given the history, he thought the best thing would be for him not to accept the nomination and to wish Peter the best.

There was then a show of hands for coring between Peter and Bill. Peter received about 22 votes and Bill received 8, and therefore **PETER GREIG** was elected.

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

Morag Hodder nominated CHRIS ANN HOLT and Liz Whitelaw seconded it. There were no other nominations and **CHRIS ANN HOLT** was therefore elected.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

Steve Holt nominated CAROLYN VENTERS and Doug McKenzie and George Brebner both seconded her.

Alan Sanderson nominated CHARLES SANDS and Nigel Griffiths seconded him, but Charles declined the nomination.

There were no other nominations and **CAROLYN VENTERS** was therefore elected. On behalf of Mearns FM the Chairman thanked Charles for his work since the inception of Mearns FM. Ian Hunter echoed those views, and said he thought the station would not exist if it had not been for all his work in the background. Steve Holt asked Charles if he was still happy for them to come to him for advice, which Charles was pleased to confirm.

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER DIRECTORS

Steve Holt suggested we e-mailed the members in the hope that those not present would be active in the appointment. Charles Sands said he thought we should appoint as many people as we could tonight and then second others who came forward later to fill any remaining vacancies. The Chairman though Steve Holt's suggestion was reasonable but that we should make appointments this evening.

Alan Sanderson suggested we made appointments without being concerned about which posts the individuals were going to fill. Ian Hunter provided details of the posts that people may want to consider where they could assist, breaking up the technical jobs in particular. The following were then nominated and elected unanimously on a show of hands.

Ian Hunter
Raymond Christie
Doug McKelvie
Steven Holt
Loiusa Greenwell
Tom Macpherson
Elaine Smith
George Brebner
Bill Pirie (on the events side)
Alan Craig (website)
Gordon Dunlop

Bill Barclay and Nigel Griffiths decided not to stand.

There were therefore 11 directors appointed plus the 4 office bearers.

Peter Greig thought that people would prefer e-mails rather than Google Mail, and he asked if people thought they had not been receiving e-mails that they let him know so that he can check e-mail addresses etc.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Ian Hunter asked for further help to fix the Collardo portacabin. Raymond expressed his disappointment at how little help had come forward so far to fix the most important transmitter that we have.

Ray Milne suggested there should be a programme of events so that people know what was going on. Alan said he had such a calendar already in mind.

It was suggested the first meeting be held on the last Thursday of every month – so the first meeting would have to be confirmed later by email but the DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING was tentatively given as 29 September.

Steve Holt reminded members of the stall at the Charities Fair in the town hall on 1 October. He also mentioned the 2012 Calendar, which he has taken on. Hector Christie's photographs and an Aberdeen company called I-Morph along with VistaGraph will produce a calendar of a very high standard – to sell for £5. He asked for support for other groups to sell them, with the other group getting a share of the proceeds for their group. The proof for the calendars should be available for the end of September and the calendars themselves be available for sale by the end of October. Nigel Griffiths suggested local newsagents should sell them too. Hector Christie suggested reconsidering the price up to £6.

Doug McKelvie wanted to plug his CD. He did a show for a girl who had major cancer surgery – the show went out – but people asked for copies. They have now produced 250 copies and 85% of the proceeds for to Marie Curie and 15% to Mearns FM. There are heaps of places in Stonehaven prepared to help to sell them. The Mearns Leader is helping to promote them and they only cost £5 each.

Bill Pirie said the Fettercairn ceilidh had been successful – but this time the suggestion was to do it in the spring with all the funds going to Mearns FM.

Ian Hunter thanked Bill Barclay for taking Mearns FM through a very difficult time and the evenhanded way he had chaired meetings. The members joined in the vote of thanks.

8.40pm